

AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN EGYPT, INC.

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BUTO, 1968

by Donald B. Redford

Tell el-Fara'in, the site of ancient Buto, is one of the most imposing mounds in the Northwest Delta. Situated roughly four kilometers north of the hamlet of El Aguzein on the main road linking Kafr-el-Sheikh and Dissuq, the tell occupies the 900 meters that separate the villages of Baz and Sekhmowi and measures slightly more than one kilometer from north to south. The jagged remains of mud brick walls of the last occupation of the site give it a gaunt but dramatic skyline and make it visible for miles around. The area of domestic occupation rises in two massive mounds, separated by a dusty, slightly undulating plain between two and three hundred meters in breadth. One naturally thinks of the bipartite nature of ancient Buto, and since the cache of bronzes which Engelbach published in the early 20's and in which Horus of Pe figured prominently was discovered on the southern of these two hills, the members of the present expedition have dubbed that mound "Pe", and its northern counterpart "Dep". Situated between and to the east of these two hills of debris is a fairly well preserved temenos wall of mud brick, rectangular in shape, which seems orientated towards the west.

With no village on the site to block excavation, ancient Buto would seem an ideal choice for the archaeologist; but there are numerous drawbacks. Since the tell is surrounded by cultivation, insect life is abundant. Not infrequently spiders five or six inches across are seen scampering over the dusty ground, and snakes, scorpions and centipedes are our constant company, sometimes even in the dig house! Again, unlike in most of Egypt, the weather in the distant north is unpredictable.



Morning mists sometimes transform the tell into a mysterious island of desolation, while later on the same day a violent north wind may render working conditions intolerable by whipping the dust into choking clouds. There is no electricity available, and water must be transported from Sekhmowi, approximately one kilometer away.

Despite these difficulties the Egypt Exploration Society has since 1964 undertaken the excavation of the site under the direction of Dr. V. Seton-Williams. On the current season's dig the writer accompanied the expedition as epigrapher and site supervisor. The results to date have been somewhat discouraging, at least for those interested in the Pharaonic period. The town enjoyed considerable prosperity under the Ptolemies with the result that the Ptolemaic layers are very thick everywhere on the site. Moreover, the water level is rather higher than expected, with the result that, at least on the southern mound, pre-22nd Dynasty remains could only be recovered with the aid of pumps. Thus the prospects of finding anything of predynastic date seem remote indeed. The temenos to the east, which fairly certainly enclosed the temple of Wadjet, gave evidence of violent destruction before the close of the first century A.D. What little epigraphic material has survived suggests the presence of a Ramesside shrine, but it also suggests that, as at Mendes, the latest substantial building was the work of Amasis.

It must be stressed, however, that the present expedition has only scratched the surface of what is a truly large mound. There is enough work at Tell-el-Fara'in for decades, and the picture may change fundamentally when other parts of the site are dug. There is moreover some reason to believe that a certain amount of early material may turn up re-used in higher strata.

INAUGURATION OF THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. MARK IN CAIRO

by Edward L. B. Terrace

St. Mark is the patron saint of the Coptic Church and 1968 marks the 1900th year of his martyrdom. At Abbassia in Cairo there is being built an imposing cathedral church, dedicated to St. Mark, which was inaugurated on June 25 before President Gamal Abdel Nasser, Emperor Haile Selassie, and a distinguished gathering of clergy from many countries and many denominations. Since the public ceremonies took place outside the Cathedral, I cannot speak of its interior spaces, but the exterior is a striking concrete vault, pierced with enormous windows, and set off with transept and apse. The effect is completely

traditional with a certain contemporary leanness about it.

Although I was privileged, through an obvious case of mistaken identity, to sit with the distinguished clergy, I am not able to report in detail on the speeches which lasted for two hours because, with one exception, these were given in Arabic, Russian, and Amharic. Dr. William Carson Blake, Head of the World Council of Churches, spoke of the need for the rich countries to help those which are not, and urged especially that the church has a social mission nearly as important as its religious one. His remarks were greeted by widespread approval from the many thousands who were present.

The colorful platforms of Patriarchs, Bishops, Metropolitans, Cardinals, and other dignitaries were placed in the gorgeous setting of an Arab tent. An enormous area beside the cathedral was completely enclosed by awnings of the typical Cairene tenting material of brilliantly-colored applique-work. The symbol of the inauguration was somewhat curious: St. Mark enclosed in a stylized pharaonic cartouche.

After the public ceremonies, which consisted entirely of speeches, a select group of clergy, President Nasser and the Ethiopian Emperor entered the unfinished Cathedral where relics of St. Mark, which had arrived from Venice only the day before, were formally committed to their new resting place. Visits to the various Christian monuments in Cairo, the church at Zeitun (where apparitions of the Virgin have been reported), and the Cairo museums were included in the itinerary of the clerical guests.

INAUGURATION CEREMONIES AT ABU SIMBEL

The great work that many skeptics once thought impossible has now been completed. On September 22 the rock-hewn temples of Ramesses II and his queen Nefertari, which had been built into the cliffs overlooking the Nile at Abu Simbel some three thousand years ago, were formally inaugurated at their new site high above the rising waters of the lake created by the new high dam at Aswan.

Some two hundred guests were present at the ceremony. These included foreign ministers and chiefs of mission accredited to Cairo, members of the Egyptian Higher Council of Antiquities, and representatives of the international consortium of engineering companies who accomplished the modern miracle of cutting the temples out of the rock into which they had been built and transporting and reassembling them on a site beyond reach of the flood waters of Lake Nasser. Dr. Gamal Mokhtar, Under Secretary for Antiquities in the Egyptian Ministry of Culture,

opened the ceremonies with an impressive address. Lucius Battle, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, who was Ambassador to Egypt during the early negotiations for the salvage of the temple and had now returned as the official representative of the United States Secretary of State, was among the invited guests.

On September 21 a special train provided by the Government of the United Arab Republic carried the invited guests to Aswan, where they were lodged at the Cataract Hotel, especially opened for the occasion, and on the following day they were transported to Abu Simbel by helicopter and returned to Aswan after the ceremonies by the same means. Dr. Mokhtar expressed his keen regret that problems of logistics had made it essential to keep the guest-list to a minimum and that it had therefore been impossible to invite many persons who had aided in the salvage of the Nubian monuments, especially the dedicated Egyptologists, Egyptian and foreign, who had given so freely of their time and effort.

In this age of unrest and international crosspurposes, it is pleasant to reflect that a heritage of Egypt and of the world has been saved from destruction by international cooperation, that the work at Abu Simbel has been financed not only with funds from state treasuries but in part by private subscription, and that archaeologists and other experts of many nations have given freely of their time to advise and assist in a peaceful project of international significance.

RELOCATION OF THE PHILAE TEMPLES

At a press conference on September 18 preceding the ceremonies marking the successful completion of the project to save the Abu Simbel temples, the Minister of Culture, Dr. Sarwat Okasha placed considerable emphasis on the project to rescue the Philae temples. The Minister explained that two proposals had been submitted: the first, to build three dams around the temples to prevent the infiltration of the Nile waters, and second to cut the temples into sections and reassemble them on an island 600 meters away. After discussions with the U.A.R. and foreign experts, the Minister said, the U.A.R. Government had selected the second proposal. The cost to move the Philae temples, the Minister said, was estimated at LE 5,500,000, of which the U.A.R. would contribute one third.

In reply to questions, the Minister said the President of UNESCO would probably launch an international appeal to save the Philae temples on September 22, during the inauguration ceremonies at Abu Simbel, as part of the international campaign to save the Nubian monuments. Asked

if the United States would share in the financing of the project, the Minister said he was still relying on a promise made by the late U.S. President, John Kennedy, in his 1960 message to the U.S. Congress, when he stated that the United States would set aside six million dollars to save the Philae temples. In reply to other questions, Dr. Okasha said that no contracts had been concluded with any firm to carry out the project but that an international offer for tenders would be made in February 1969; initially there must be a guarantee that the entire cost of the project would be forthcoming, and LE 1,500,000 in cash was needed at the outset. No time limit had been set for the completion of the project but the sooner the better, for the water level continues to rise and the danger of damage to the temples increases daily.

AN ARTIST EXPLORES THE BENT PYRAMID

by Bruce Hungerford

Walking across the mile and a half of desert that lies between the irrigation canal at Dahshur and Sneferu's mighty Bent Pyramid, I kept wondering, as the monument loomed larger and larger, at its extraordinary shape. From a base about 620 feet square it rises to almost half its full height of 305 feet at an angle of 54 degrees and then abruptly changes to a gentler slope of 43 degrees for the remaining distance to the apex. Archaeologists have suggested that the builders became fearful midway in construction that a pyramid of so great a base area carried to its apex at so steep an angle might collapse from the weight of masonry bearing down upon the inner chambers and passages, or that for some reason the structure had to be completed in haste, but the closer I came to it, the more impressive its form seemed to be. I gazed in awe up its gigantic east face, with its polished limestone revetment still reflecting the morning sunlight with dazzling brilliance, as it had done for the better part of five thousand years.

I had come to Egypt just one week previously, on May 12, 1968, as the recipient of a grant from the American Research Center in Egypt, in order to study and make a photographic record of Pharaonic monuments. This was my fourth visit to Egypt. My third, exactly a year ago, under the sponsorship of the American Research Center in Egypt and the American University in Cairo, had been cut short by the outbreak of war in June. But I had already filmed the exterior of the Bent Pyramid -- it is most beautiful as seen through the graceful eucalyptus trees that line the canal -- and now I was bent on exploring and photographing its unique interior.

This is an experience not granted to many, but Mr. Dorman had kindly spoken with the Director General of Antiquities, Dr. Mokhtar, who had given me his permission and had delegated Mr. El Kholy, Inspector of Antiquities at Saqqara, to accompany me. Thus, I found myself early on this May morning in the company of Mr. El Kholy and a ghaffir at the foot of a forty-foot ladder leading to the entrance on the north face of the pyramid. (I might say in parenthesis that this pyramid is unique among Old Kingdom pyramids in having been built with two entrances; the second, halfway up the west face, is even more inaccessible than that on the north.)

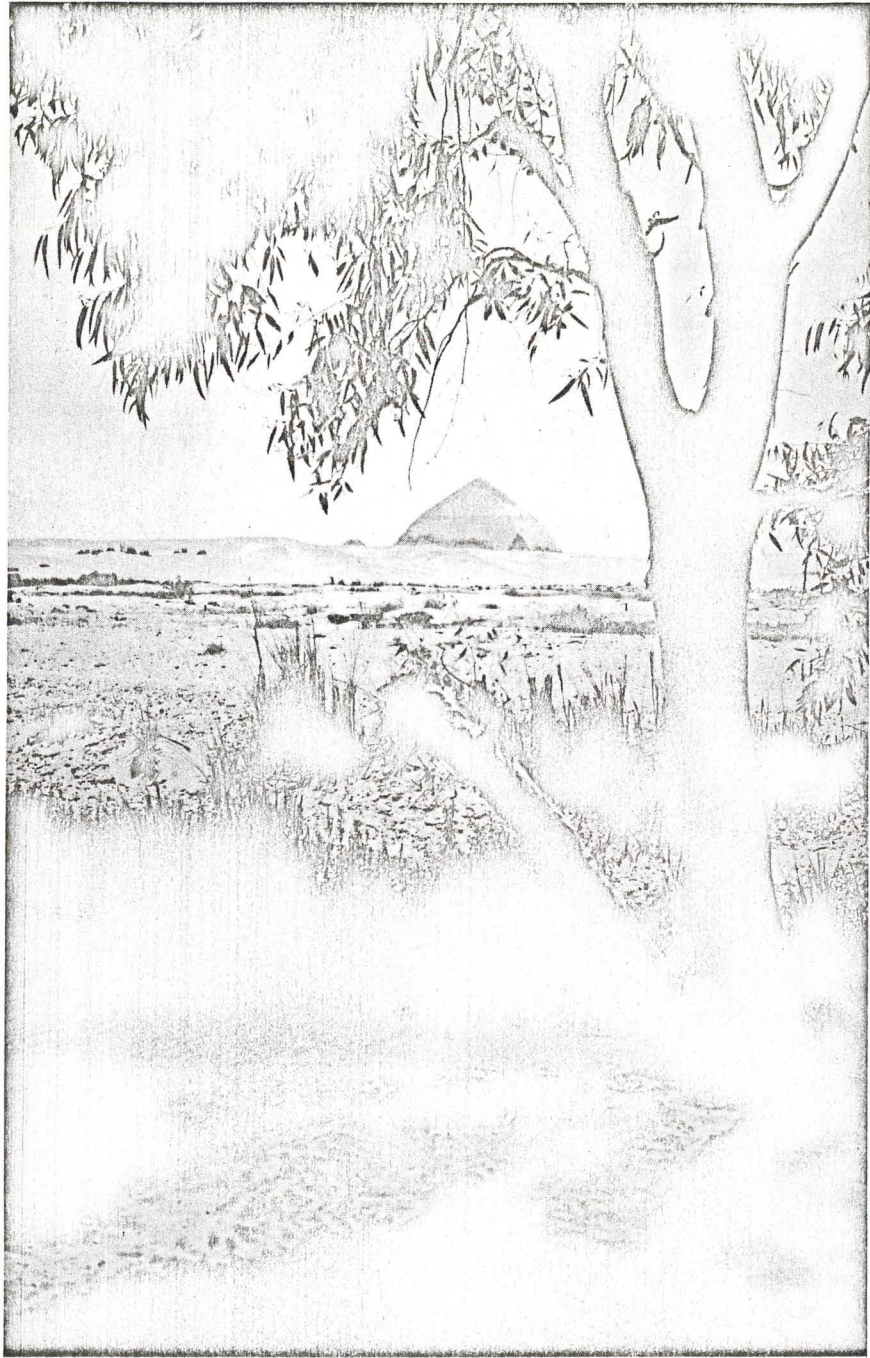
From the top of the ladder there is a superb view across the desert. To the north is Sneferu's Red Pyramid, with the Step Pyramid of Zoser far beyond. To the east, looking along the face of the Bent Pyramid, one sees the ruinous mud-brick pyramid of Amenemhet III at the edge of cultivation, and beyond it, across the Nile, lies the modern city of Helwan. Less than a mile to the northeast, in a desert hollow, are the remains of King Sneferu's valley temple, now nearly buried under drifting sand, which Dr. Ahmed Fakhry excavated in 1951 with spectacular results.

From this vista of tawny desert and vivid green and bright sunlight, one turns into the dusk of the Bent Pyramid's interior. The passage leading to the chambers in the heart of the pyramid is only a little over three feet high. One slithers down it at a gentle angle, over the trolley tracks installed during previous excavations, for around eighty metres, emerging at last into a small but very high-ceilinged room. On the southern wall of this room, one is confronted by another ladder, mercifully only twenty feet high, from which one steps onto the floor of a rectangular room sixty feet in height, but with the walls converging, at a height of about thirty feet, into steps a few inches deep, to form a corbelled ceiling with a span of about one foot by five at its apex.

The traveller's next goal is a rough hole in the south wall of this impressive chamber, which is located fifty feet above the floor and is reached by a stout ladder. Surrounded by swarms of bats, one maneuvers oneself very carefully off the top of this ladder into a slightly ascending passage about three feet in diameter. It is best to negotiate this passage on all fours and slowly, as one slip is enough to speed one back down through the entrance and into the abyss.

After twenty metres, this passage opens into a gallery running at right angles to it, and here one can again stand upright. The gallery is long and narrow, lined throughout with great blocks of polished limestone. Along it, to right and left, are the great stones of a portcullis, forced back into their niches, cemented into place and secured by heavy wooden beams.

This cool gallery seemed like a good place to rest after an arduous climb. As I sat on the floor changing lenses, I suddenly heard the sharp, clear sound of a door closing somewhere in the interior of the pyramid. For a moment I put the sound down as just that, but suddenly



it dawned upon me that there were no known doors to close within the pyramid. After about ten seconds, as I sat there in amazement, the sound came again, and it was unmistakably from the interior of the pyramid. I looked at the ghaffir, who merely threw his hands up in mystification -- he had obviously heard that sound before.

By this time my hearing was fully alert, and I waited for the next repetition, determined to pinpoint the direction whence the sound came. After a bit there it was again, this time followed by a series of muffled booms as if from an explosion a long way off. Then only I recalled that Ahmed Fakhry, in his account of exploration in the Bent Pyramid, had mentioned that, on windy days, he, too, had heard mysterious noises deep within the pyramid, and I remembered that, as I entered the pyramid, a refreshingly cool breeze had been blowing over the desert. It was hard to imagine, nevertheless, how any breath from the outside world could penetrate the gallery where I sat, surrounded as it was by thousands of tons of masonry, and the mysterious sounds remained for me baffling and unexplained. Indeed, I found the Bent Pyramid unique among all the pyramids of Egypt. Around it and inside it there seemed to be a subtle mood which I have never experienced elsewhere.

I declined to continue from this gallery to the burial chamber, for that would have involved more climbing of a particularly perilous nature. I knew that this chamber contained no trace of a burial, not even a fragment of a great sarcophagus. I knew, too, that I had the return trip before me, and that is perhaps more hazardous than the ascent. Great care must be exercised, especially at the point where the narrow passage slopes downward to open suddenly into the opening near the ceiling of the large chamber with the corbelled vault.

After three hours we stood once more on the high desert in the brilliant sunshine, and I returned to Cairo with an unusual and exciting experience behind me and two days of painfully stiff legs and back ahead of me.

NOTES ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

With a working force of 140, the expedition at Fustat opened its fourth season in mid-September under the direction of Dr. George T. Scanlon. Other members of the professional staff include: Dr. Wladyslaw Kubiak and Mr. Neil MacKenzie, Field Archaeologists; Mrs. Elinore Pawula, Ceramics Supervisor and Artist; Miss Helen Mitchell, Numismatist and Conservator; Miss Clare Sampson, Artist; Miss Penelope Freeman, Photographer and Mr. Antoni Ostrasz, Architect. The 1968 season will probably extend until mid-December.

The press announced the discovery recently of a gray granite statue representing a prince of the XXVI Dynasty found in a drain in Santa, a small village near Tanta in the Delta. This is said to be the first complete statue representing a prince of Sais, capital of Psamtik I. The statue is reported to be 86 centimeters high, the shoulders measure 44 centimeters across and the arms are 32 centimeters long. A cartouche engraved on the statue bears the name of the prince and adds "King of the North and the South."

Construction is continuing on the museum which will house the solar boat of Cheops, located along the base of the southern face of the Pyramid, over the pit where the disassembled parts of the boat were first discovered. The Department of Antiquities now predicts that the inauguration of the museum will take place before the end of the year. The solar boat, meanwhile, has been reassembled and remains, inaccessible to the public, in the brick workshed located along the base of the western face of the Pyramid.

The long-awaited computer which is to process the tapes which will reveal whether or not there are any hidden chambers in the Chephren Pyramid has at last arrived and has been installed at Ain Shems University, co-sponsor with the University of California in the Pyramid X-Ray Project. Unfortunately one small but essential part is still missing. Dr. Yazolino predicts that from the time the computer starts to function, the processing of the tapes will not take longer than two weeks.

Seventeen crates of pharaonic objects from the Cairo Museum as well as objects on loan from the Museum of Arts and Handicrafts in Cairo left the U.A.R. by air on August 27th for Mexico City, where they will form part of an international exhibit in conjunction with the Olympic Games.

PROMOTIONS AND CHANGES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTIQUITIES

The following promotions and reassignments have been confirmed by the Director General of Antiquities:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PREVIOUS POST</u>	<u>NEW POST</u>
Abd el-Moneim es-Sawi	Under Secretary of State for Antiquities, Ministry of Culture	First Under Secretary in Ministry of Culture
Dr. Gamal Mokhtar	Director General of Antiquities	Under Secretary of State for Antiquities
Dr. Gamal Mehrez	Director of Islamic Section in Dept. of Antiquities	Director General of Antiquities
Dr. Hassan Subhi el-Bekri	Director of Inspectorates and Field Work	Director of Pharaonic Section in Dept. of Antiquities
Hishmat Messiha	Keeper of the Pyramid area, Giza	Director of Inspectorates, Cairo
Abdel Hafez Abdel Al	Chief Inspector of Upper Egypt, Luxor	Director of Field Work, Cairo
Munir Basta	Chief Inspector of Lower Egypt, Tanta	Keeper of Pyramid area, Giza
Kamal Sidky	Inspector	Chief Inspector of Middle and Western Delta, Alexandria
Sami Farag	Inspector of Western Delta, Alexandria	Acting Chief Inspector of Eastern Delta, Mansura
Hassan el-Masri	Inspector of Western Delta, Alexandria	Keeper of Saqqara
el-Khudairi el-Shandawili	Inspector of Qena	Chief Inspector of Northern Upper Egypt, Qena
Ahmed el-Taher	Keeper of Saqqara	Chief Inspector of Southern Upper Egypt, Luxor

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PREVIOUS POST</u>	<u>NEW POST</u>
Fuad Yacoub	Inspector	Head of Publication Office, Cairo
Ahmed es-Sawi	Inspector	Head of Scientific Reports Section, Cairo

THE CENTER'S GUEST BOOK

During June, Dr. Edmund Lasalle, President of the International Fund for Monuments, and his wife called at the Center during their three-week visit to the U.A.R. Dr. Perry Rathbone, Director of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and Dr. Henry Fischer, curator of the Egyptian Collection at the Metropolitan Museum in New York, both visited the Center while in Cairo to discuss with U.A.R. officials plans for the ceremonies marking the centenary of the founding of the Museum of Fine Arts and the Metropolitan, both to be held in 1970. Dr. Donald B. Redford of the University of Toronto (see his article entitled Buto 1968 in this issue) passed through Cairo after another season at Tell el Fara'in. Dr. Malcolm Kerr, former ARCE Fellow currently on the faculty at UCLA, stopped at the Center while on a trip to the Middle East. Several graduate students participating in the summer course in Arabic given at the Center for Arabic Studies Abroad at the American University called at the Center.

During August, Dr. Gus W. Van Beck, Curator of the Office of Anthropology at the Smithsonian Institution, called at the office and later visited the excavations at Fustat, in which he had expressed a particular interest. Dr. Franz Lenzinger, Cultural and Press Attache at the Swiss Embassy, registered at the Center, as did Dr. Bietak, of the Austrian Archaeological Mission in the U.A.R. Dr. Pierre MacKay, former ARCE Fellow and currently on the faculty of the University of Washington, stopped in at the Center during August on his way from Greece, where for the last two years, he has been attending the American School of Classical Studies, to the States. Mr. Denroku Sakai, reporter for the Japanese newspaper Asahi Shimbun, called at the office to be briefed on archaeological activities in the U.A.R.

In early September members of the Fustat expedition, under the direction of Dr. George T. Scanlon started to arrive (see Notes on Archaeological Activities in this issue). Dr. Burt Hansen, Professor of Economics at the University of California currently working on a research project under the auspices of the Ford Foundation, stopped by the office. Finally, two more of our ARCE Fellows for 1968-1969, Mr. F. Robert Hunter and Father Martin J. McDermott, reported in to the Center to begin work on their projects for the coming year.

FORMER FELLOWS

Nicholas B. Millet, who directed the Center's excavation at Gebel Adda, was awarded his doctorate last June by Yale University, having completed a thesis based on the Meroitic material found at that site. He has now received an appointment as Assistant Professor of Egyptology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Literatures at Harvard University, where he is giving courses in the language and history of ancient Egypt.

Kent Weeks, continuing his graduate studies in Egyptology at Yale University, was in Egypt in May and June working as a member of Dr. James E. Harris' University of Michigan Cephalometric Project at the Cairo Museum and at Giza. Mr. Weeks will return to Cairo in December to join the Hierakonpolis expedition sponsored by the Center and to continue his studies of ancient Egyptian medicine and disease in the Old Kingdom.

THIS YEAR'S FELLOWS IN EGYPT

The following have been awarded fellowships by the American Research Center in Egypt for the season 1968-1969 and are at present working on their various projects.

Daniel Crecelius, Assistant Professor of History at California State College, is making a study of the Dervish orders in modern Egypt. Iliya Harik, Assistant Professor, Department of Government, Indiana University is continuing his investigation of the Egyptian cooperative movement from its inception in 1908 to 1932, which was interrupted in June, 1966 by the war in the Middle East; so also, is Michael Horn, candidate for a doctor's degree at Harvard University, who is preparing a thesis on the 'Urabi revolt of 1881-1882. Bruce Hungerford, whose project for photographing pharaonic monuments last year was also cut short, has just returned to the United States after intensive work at Giza and Luxor. Robert Hunter, is working on a doctoral thesis for Harvard University, which will deal with the life and work of Ali Mubarak Pasha (1824-1893), a prominent Egyptian engineer, educator and author. Ira M. Lapidus, Associate Professor of History, University of California, Berkeley, is continuing research along lines suggested by his book, Muslim Cities in the Late Middle Ages, which he believes has raised serious problems concerning the emergence of Islamic Middle Eastern Society and has indicated the 'Abbasid period as the formative

stage in its development; his work in Cairo is chiefly concerned with this difficult and complicated period. Neil D. MacKenzie, degree candidate at the University of Michigan, is investigating the topographical history of Fatimid Egypt; he has formerly worked as an assistant on excavations conducted in Egypt. Martin J. McDermott, candidate for a doctor's degree at the University of Chicago, is studying published and unpublished Mu'tazilite works in Cairo in anticipation of a thesis that will attempt to define relationships of Mu'tazilite to non-Sunnite thought. Edward L.B. Terrace, Associate Curator, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, who has now in press a publication of his doctoral thesis presented to Harvard University last year, which deals with the paintings on a magnificent Middle Kingdom coffin from Bersheh, now in the Boston Museum, is studying other paintings of the Egyptian Middle Kingdom with a view to future publication; Dr. Terrace also held a fellowship from the Center last year, which was interrupted by the war.

AN HONOR FOR THE PRESIDENT OF THE CENTER

The President of the American Research Center in Egypt, Professor Gustav von Grunebaum, has been elected to membership in the American Philosophical Society and will be formally inducted on November 14, 1968. Membership in this ancient society, founded by Benjamin Franklin and boasting a long roster of names distinguished in the humanities and the social and exact sciences, is a great honor. The Center is proud to be able to state that Dr. von Grunebaum is the fourth from its own roster to be thus chosen. The others are Dr. George Miles, Professor Kurt Weitzman and Professor John A. Wilson.

IN MEMORIAM

John D. Gordon, 1907-1968

We have only just learned, with great regret, of the premature death on March 10, 1968 of one of our valued members, Dr. John D. Gordon of New York City. Dr. Gordon, chief since 1940 of the Berg Collection of English and American Literature at the New York Public Library, had a wide range of interests, among which an interest in Egypt and the Middle East held no mean place. His loss will be deeply felt by the Center, of which he and Mrs. Gordon have been enthusiastic supporters.

A CORRECTION AND AN APOLOGY

A rather testy reader has drawn our attention to the spelling of El Kab in M. de Meulenaere's article, "Belgian Excavations at El Kab," which appeared in Newsletter Number Sixty-Six (July, 1968). Knowing that M. de Meulenaere could not have been guilty of so gross an error, and suspecting, rightly, that the Editor must have changed the author's "Elkab" to the more familiar, but incorrect "El Kab," our correspondent feels that we should bring a correction. That we do, herewith, together with an apology. We are glad to learn that the "El" of this word is not, as we had thought, the Arabic article, but an intrinsic part of the city's name. Being human, we are also glad to find that we are not alone in our ignorance. A hasty, if belated, check of a few of our reference books reveals that Baedeker's Egypt (1929), edited by the illustrious scholar Georg Steindorff, calls the city El-Kab, and indexes it under "K"; so, too, do the Encyclopaedia Britannica (11th edition, 1910), to which Griffith contributed the articles on Egypt, and, more recently, William C. Hayes in The Scepter of Egypt (1953-1959). Serge Sauneron writes the word "El-Kab" in Dictionnaire de la civilisation égyptienne (1959), and the same spelling occurs in Drioton-Vandier L'Egypte (4th edition, 1962); here the city is indexed under "E", but so are a number of other place-names unmistakably preceded by the Arabic article "El."

PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE CENTER

Goff, Beatrice L.

"The 'Significance' of Symbols: a Hypothesis Tested with Relation to Egyptian Symbols," extracted from Religions in Antiquity: Essays in Memory of Erwin Ramsdell Goodenough (Leiden, 1968), pp. 476-505; illus.

In this most interesting study Dr. Goff confines her discussion chiefly to the abundant symbols of Dynasty XXI. In general, she divides symbols roughly into three classes: 1) pictured symbols offering reassurance without the necessity of accompanying words to express their meaning; 2) symbolic representations accompanied by a few words of general significance and applicable to a large number of art forms; 3) art forms with longer texts, sometimes elaborated into a myth, the art and the myth remaining, however, independent symbols that reinforce each other's values. Dr. Goff discusses,

among other things, the significance to the Egyptian of abstract numbers; of words and signs used independently of their comprehensible meaning; of amulets; of scarabs with and without inscription (the latter sometimes bearing the potent name of a prominent person rather than that of the owner); and of scenes pictured on coffins and funerary papyri. The author concludes that the symbolism of the Twenty-first Dynasty may be typical of the way in which artists of other periods used their designs, and that thus her study may have a wider application. At least in the period discussed, "the symbols in every medium were used with great freedom and with no sense of being bound by a canonical tradition. At times the designs stood alone to make their own impact on the minds of the viewers. At other times they were supplemented by a few words. At still other times a longer text was added that might be the artist's own composition or an adaptation from traditional sources. Such texts, however, were not necessarily companions of the designs. Like the designs, they were often capable of accomplishing their purpose quite independently." Dr. Goff promises a book in expansion of the present study, a volume that will be anticipated with interest by those concerned with Egyptian religion and religious symbolism.

VOLUME OF ARABIC LITERATURE

Members of the Center will be pleased to learn that the first volume in the series of translations of modern Arabic literature is now in press. This is an anthology of thirty-two short stories, preceded by an introduction to the series as a whole by Dr. Sarwat Okasha, Minister of Culture of the United Arab Republic. In this initial volume, which runs to some 430 pages, great care has been taken to not duplicate material already available and to represent all important literary trends.

It will be recalled that this project of the Center, conceived and directed by Gustav E. von Grunebaum, envisages a set of publications which will present in translation the works of leading Arabic writers in all fields of literature, which have appeared since the Second World War. In making a selection for the first volume, Professor von Grunebaum has been aided by a distinguished committee of Egyptian scholars, who aid in selection and translation and examine the material for accurate translation into idiomatic English. A committee has now been at work for

some months on examining material for the second volume, which will consist of dramatic works. Subsequent volumes will include novels, essays, poetry, biographies, and autobiographies.

ANNUAL MEETING

We look forward to seeing all of our members in the Bowl Room, Houston Hall, 3417 Spruce Street, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, at 9:30 A.M. on November 9, 1968.

The plans and program for our meeting in Philadelphia indicate that this will be an exceptionally interesting and pleasant one for all.

NEW MEMBERS

It is with pleasure that we welcome the following members who have joined the American Research Center in Egypt during the past fiscal year, as well as those who have come on the rolls since July 1, 1968.

Miss Joy S. Abrahamsen, New York City
Dr. Martin O. Binger, New York City
Miss Elizabeth Boosahda, Worcester, Mass.
Mr. Howard N. Bream, Gettysburg, Pa.
Mr. George G. Campbell, Aiea, Hawaii
Mr. David Daguanno, Huntington, New York
Mr. Carl DeVries, Chicago, Ill.
Mrs. Margaret P. Eastman, Buffalo, New York
Mr. Harold J. Higbee, San Francisco, Calif.
Mr. Phil Kenyon, Wichita, Kansas
Mr. Joseph P. Majer, Chicago, Ill.
Mrs. John P. Ohl, Sands Point, New York
Mr. Douglas Patton, Eugene, Oregon
Dr. Charles F. Pfeiffer, Mt. Pleasant, Mich.
Rev. Jesse B. Renninger, Allentown, Pa.
Miss Rita H. Scherle, St. Louis, Mo.
Mr. Mark Schoenle, Columbus, Ohio
Mr. M.D. Schwartz, Torrance, Calif.
Mr. B. Sommers, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
Mr. Frank Tedesco, San Francisco, Calif.
Mr. Orval Wintermute, Durham, North Carolina